

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite products such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of boron-containing fungicide prior to forming said composite product.
2. The method according to claim 1 in which said amount of fungicide is in the range of from about 2 to about 12 percent of said composite product.
3. The method according to claim 1 in which said amount of fungicide is in the range of from about 3 to about 5 percent of said composite product.
4. The method according to claim 1 in which said lignocellulosic material is selected from the group consisting of wood, ground rice hulls, kenaf, jute, and coconut shells.
5. The method according to claim 1 in which said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, high-density polyethylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride.
6. The method according to claim 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is calcium borate.

7. The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of calcium polytriborate, calcium hexaborate, calcium-sodium borate, calcium-magnesium borate and calcium metaborate.
8. The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is a naturally occurring borate.
9. The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of nobleite, gowerite, hydroboracite, ulexite and colemanite.
10. The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is a synthetic borate.
11. The method according to claim 10 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of calcium metaborate, calcium polytriborate and calcium hexaborate.
12. The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is a calcium polytriborate having a $\text{CaO}:\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ molar ratio of about 2:3.
13. The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is a calcium hexaborate having a $\text{CaO}:\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ molar ratio of about 1:3.
14. The method according to claim 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is selected from the group consisting of zinc borate and boric acid.
15. The method according to claim 1 in which said lignocellulosic material is wood.

16. In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite products which increase their resistance to fungal attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of boron-containing fungicide prior to forming said composite product.
17. The method according to claim 16 in which said amount of fungicide is in the range of from about 0.1 to about 5 percent of said composite product.
18. The method according to claim 16 in which said amount of fungicide is in the range of from about 0.3 to about 2 percent of said composite product.
19. The method according to claim 16 in which said amount of fungicide is in the range of from about 2 to 4 percent of said composite product.
20. The method according to claim 16 in which said lignocellulosic material is selected from the group consisting of wood, ground rice hulls, kenaf, jute, and coconut shells.
21. The method according to claim 16 in which said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, high density polyethylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride.
22. The method according to claim 16 in which said boron-containing pesticide is calcium borate.

23. The method according to claim 21 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of calcium polytriborate, calcium hexaborate, calcium metaborate, calcium-sodium borate, and calcium-mangesium borate.
24. The method according to claim 21 in which said calcium borate is a naturally occurring borate.
25. The method according to claim 23 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of nobleite, gowerite, hydroboracite, ulexite and colemanite.
26. The method according to claim 21 in which said calcium borate is a synthetic borate.
27. The method according to claim 25 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of calcium metaborate, calcium poyltriborate and calcium hexaborate.
28. The method according to claim 21 in which said calcium borate is a calcium polytriborate having a $\text{CaO}:\text{B.sub.2 O.sub.3}$ molar ratio of about 2:3.
29. The method according to claim 21 in which said calcium borate is a calcium hexaborate having a $\text{CaO}:\text{B.sub.2 O.sub.3}$ molar ratio of about 1:3.
30. The method according to claim 16 in which said boron-containing fungicide is boric acid.
31. The method according to claim 16 in which said lignocellousic material is wood.